

REMARKS

After reviewing the allowed claims, Applicants discovered some typographical errors in the allowed claims. Claims 7 and 12 have been amended to correct for typographical errors. Claims 10 and 16 have been amended to consistently refer to "carbide precursor" and not "carbon precursor".

Applicants believe that the amendments merely embody the correction of formal matters without changing the scope of the claims and were previously discussed in the December 12, 2003 Interview. Applicants also believe that such amendment is needed for proper protection of the invention and requires no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Patent Office. Thus, it is respectfully requested to enter the suggested amendments.

It is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered prior to the issuance of the above-referenced patent application. It is believed that no new matter is added by this amendment. If the Examiner desires any additional information, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below to expedite prosecution. Prompt and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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